Episode 13- Mike Gets Kicked Out of a So-Called Rock Venue

scene 1- int. the blind pig, 1/20/2011, 9PM

ALGERNON is playing TAXIDERMY STAN on the stage... though Ann Arbor doesn't seem to have gotten the memo because THE PLACE IS DEAD! JASON, JOSH, SERAPHIM and I are the only people there. MEL pops in, sporting an ALGERNON shirt, and clamps onto my back.

melissa

What's up? No camera tonight?

mike

Nah, they said they're fine with the footage of the Taproot show.

MELISSA

You mean from when they opened for THE Taproot??? The guys who did "Poem"? That's awesome-

MIKE

Yeah, yeah. You knew that already, ya groupie.

MELISSA

Hey, I was just making sure we were talking about the same Taproot who HAD THE #5 MOST PLAYED SONG OF 2002-

MIKE

Alright, they get the point!

MEL looks around.

MELISSA

Do they? Where is everybody?

MIKE

It's a school night. That and the show was kind of arranged last minute. So... what can you do?

MELISSA

I'll tell you what you can do. HYPE THIS SHIT UP!!!

She pushes me into JASON, who in turn pushes me into JOSH, who I push into SERAPHIM. Before you know it, we got a nice little 5-person mosh pit going. The band responds as they go into the breakdown. MEL watches this and smiles.

MELISSA

They're so cute at that age...

As she says this, I run past her with JASON on my shoulders. Like we're a bunch of 6' tall kids!!! And we are.

intro sequence!!!

scene 2- int. mike's living room, 1/22/2011, 6PM

I'm there doing homework... on a Saturday??? How lame is that??? MEL is napping on the couch, but she wakes up and moseys over to me.

MELISSA

Hey, sweetie.

MIKE

Hey, darling.

Kissie.

MIKE

Have a nice nap?

MELISSA

Yeah... how long was I out?

MIKE

15 hours. You never really woke up, you just wandered out here and passed out on the couch.

MELISSA

Cool... man, I wish I didn't have these stupid hibernation instincts...

MIKE

I'll take 'em. There ain't nothing to do during winter.

MELISSA

Nonsense. You just gotta stay active. Live it up! I mean, why are you doing homework on a SATURDAY NIGHT???

MIKE

It's not like I want to! But I have a ton of crap on tap so if I don't do some today I'm screwed for tomorrow.

MELISSA

Bummer. Making any progress?

MIKE

(checks his homework)

Well... I've been reading the same paragraph for the last five minutes. You want to read me this article about Facebook stalking? As someone accused of being a Facebook stalker, this should appeal to me, right?

MEL grabs me and makes me throw my article against the wall.

MELISSA

WRONG. Now... let's find something else for you to do. Is Michigan basketball playing?

MEL makes me turn on the TV.

sportsanchor

-Michigan loses 69-64 to Minnesota at home and falls to 11-9 on the season, while Ohio State narrowly avoids the upset-

I turn it back off.

MIKE

That's why I wasn't watching.

MELISSA

Ah. Well, shoot. But you know what? There's plenty of other things we can do. More ACTIVE things.

MIKE

Like what?

MELISSA

Well...

She gives me "the look". Or maybe that's just exhaustion.

MIKE

Oh, duh. Are you going to have enough energy though?

MELISSA

Yeah... you know... I...

She doesn't. She's out again. I tuck her in, give her a kiss on the cheek, and go open up my computer. Something catches my eye.

MIKe

Hey, Melissa, come check this out!

MELISSA

Mmmph!!!

MIKE

Come on, you narcoleptic! This is important.

MELISSA

Bring it to me?

I grimace, but I do it.

MIKE

Check it. Phil's entered Algernon into the Metro Times Battle of the Bands.

MELISSA

...Great. So they're going to be playing against 15-year-olds in a high school gym? Aren't they past this stage-

MIKE

No, dude. This is legit. Check it. See, these bands put up videos and people vote on 'em. The top 7 votegetters get to play at the Motor City Casino, with a grand prize of... $10,000!!!

MELISSA

That's some good shit! You think they'll get enough votes to get in though?

MIKE

With one of MY videos? I think so.

MELISSA

Oh, but of course.

Nuzzle.

MIKE

Besides, THIS is our competition.

I pull up "House Phones", an atrocious indie band.

house phones singer prick

ME AND MY MACHINE LIKE TO SCREAM AT SHEETS WITH NO SLEEP ME AND MY MACHINE!!!!!!!!!

MELISSA

Yuck...

MIKE

Yup. This is gonna be easy.

MELISSA

I dunno, man. Don't underestimate the stupidity of the voters...

MIKE

Well... they can't be THAT dumb...

HOUSE PHONES SINGER PRICK

ME AND MY MACHINE LIKE TO PLAY PATTYCAKE WITH ME AND MY MACHINE!!!! I'M SO LONELY!!!!!!!! Rockstar Energy Drink.

MELISSA

I'm just saying... so anyways, what else is on tap for tonight?

MIKE

I don't know... want to stay in? Watch a movie? Cuddle up?

MELISSA

Sounds good to me.

Kissy time.

MELISSA

I got a question, though... is your camera charged up?

MIKE

Why? Are we making a porno?

MELISSA

Yeah, right. That'd be the worst porno ever. Nah, I was just wondering if you had enough battery life for that band you're supposed to record-

MIKE

Wait, THAT WAS TONIGHT??? WHAT TIME IS IT???

MELISSA

Like 6:30...

I scramble to get all my camera shit together

MIKE

FUCK! They go on at 7!!! Gee, thanks for reminding me earlier-

MEL is passed out on the couch again.

MIKE

I need to learn to do that during a real argument...

scene 3- int. woodruff's bar, 1/22/2011, 7PM

I'm recording some mediocre Indie band at this mediocre Indie bar. Not bad, but not great either, but hey, a contact is a contact. They finish their last song. The audience liked it enough.

rick

Thank you! We are The Evening Round, and that's it for tonight. If you liked us, check us out online... we'll have footage from this show up soon, along with other recordings and show dates. So blah blah blah-

He babbles on sotto vocce as I go over to the bar. MEL pops in.

MELISSA

Didn't think this was your type of music.

MIKE

It's not. But at the last Algernon show they saw me with my camera and said they had a gig here and... yeah.

MELISSA

Groovy. So what're they paying you?

RICK comes up. MEL poofs away.

rick

So, how'd it come out?

MIKE

Pretty good I think. No real problems, and I made sure that everyone got equal screen time.

rick

Awesome, dude. Well, let me know when you have it uploaded and edited and all that. For tonight though, what are you drinking?

MIKE

Hmm... Blue Moon.

RICK

Good choice. Hey, two Blue Moons!

The BARKEEP sends over a beer and RICK pays for it.

MIKE

Thanks, man!

RICK

It's the least I can do. Anything you want tonight, I'll pay for it. Just try to keep the tab below $50, alright?

MIKE

I'll try.

He chuckles. We toast. He walks away. MEL comes back.

MELISSA

All the booze you can drink, huh? Good deal. AND you made another contact, you little entrepeneur you!

She pinches my cheeks, then looks down the bar.

MELISSA

Uh oh, drunk cougar coming. Watch out!

She poofs away as a DRUNK COUGAR stumbles on me and starts groping me. I just kind of... let it happen.

drunk cougar

Look at the kitty! You're just the cutest thing I've ever seen... what's your name?

MIKE

Er... I'm Mike...

Her friends, SOME GIRL and A BIG FAT ASSHOLE come up and drag her off.

some girl

Sorry about that. (to DRUNK COUGAR) Here, let's go outside...

SOME GIRL takes her outside. A BIG FAT ASSHOLE remains. We watch as she stumbles out the door.

a big fat asshole

See, man, her thing is that she's terrified that at her age, nobody wants to be with her. So she's throwing herself at every man who comes in her line of sight.

MIKE

What a pity. And here I thought it was because she found me attractive.

A BIG FAT ASSHOLE

Nah, man. She does that with everyone. But you want to know what to do with a woman like that?

MIKE

Er... do tell...

A BIG FAT ASSHOLE

You fuck her up the ass. That way when you skip town on her, you don't have to worry about getting her pregnant.

I react to this atrocious statement, feigning amusement. MEL pops in, tail raised and ready for a fight.

MELISSA

WHAT??? WHAT DID HE JUST SAY???

A BIG FAT ASSHOLE

So... do you want to fuck her?

MIKE

Eh... that's alright...

A BIG FAT ASSHOLE

Why not? It'd be easy.

MIKE

...I don't think my girlfriend would appreciate it.

A BIG FAT ASSHOLE

Well... is your girlfriend here?

MELISSA

...Is this guy for real?

MIKE

Well... (technically) she's not here at the bar, but...

A BIG FAT ASSHOLE

Does she live in this state?

MIKE

Yeah.

A BIG FAT ASSHOLE

Does she live in this city?

MELISSA

Mike, hit this asshole.

MIKE

Yeah. We live together, actually.

A BIG FAT ASSHOLE

Oh. Well... but... is she HERE?

MELISSA

Yeah, I'm right here, ASSHOLE!!!

MEL makes me punch A BIG FAT ASSHOLE's stupid face.

MIKE

Mel... why did you make me do that?

MELISSA

Only because I couldn't do it myself. Good luck!

Quick cheek kiss as she poofs away. He's coming back at me!!! CRUSHER DESTROYER begins playing as we have a Dragonball Z-esque fight. We pretty much obliterate the place. We hit eachother with beer bottles and glasses, he throws me into an arcade game, and I smash him with the stage (yes, the whole stage). Finally, MEL and Iteam up and do a DOUBLE UPPERCUT!!! He's out. The bouncers finally wake up from their nap and drag us outside. I get a round of applause from the other patrons.

MIKE

Thank you! Be sure to vote for Algernon for the Metro Times Battle of the Bands!

MELISSA

See, that's what SHOULD have happened.

scene 4- int. mike's car, 1/22/2011, 11PM

MELISSA and I are driving back down Washtenaw from the show, perfectly in tact.

MIKE

I didn't want to get thrown out! Not while I still had more drinks I could buy-

MELISSA

Is that more important than standing up for your girlfriend?

MIKE

Well, I didn't take him up on his offer. Isn't that enough? Besides, he must have been 6'4'', at least 275... and I've never been in a fight before.

MELISSA

He was all play dough. You could have wiped the floor with him.

MIKE

Well... what would I have done if he was actually a really good fighter?

MELISSA

Use spirit bomb! Duh.

MIKE

Oh yeah, duh. (beat.) You know, I really did want to hit him.

MELISSA

I know. And it's probably best that you didn't. Besides, you gotta save some of that energy for GETTING VOTES FOR ALGERNON!!!

MONTAGE TIME!!!

scene 5- int. mike's parent's house, 1/23/2011, 5PM

THE FAMILY and I are together for dinner. I'm preaching the word of ALGERNON.

scene 6- int. sac 290 classroom, 1/24/2011, 10AM

We're in a production classroom. I'm preaching the word of ALGERNON.

scene 7- ext. jefferson street, 1/29/2011, 3PM

I'm hanging up flyers, which are preaching the word of... you guessed it. ALGERNON.

scene 8- ext. the diag, 2/1/2011, noon

I "accidentally" drop a bunch of ALGERNON wristbands all over the place. I scamper away instead of picking them up.

scene 9- int. mike's apartment, 2/2/2011, midnight

MEL and I are huddled around the computer, pulling up the results of the votes.

MIKE

We got in! WE'RE GOING TO PLAY AT THE MOTOR CITY CASINO!!!

We both jump up and down and scream like little girls. She jumps up and wraps herself around me while I run around the room like a fool.

MELISSA

This is SO AWESOME!!! This is going to be the big break that they've needed for so long!!!

MIKE

Think about it... a big ass stage with a pro sound system... hundreds of screaming fans... and legitimate exposure!!!

MELISSA

So awesome!!! What does it say about the judging process though?

MIKE

One sec... performances will be judged by a combination of technical skill, enthusiasm, and audience involvement.

MELISSA

Audience involvement, eh? Well, that's where YOU come in. Mike, I have a challenge for you. I want you to be the loudest, craziest fan there. Even if that means 20 security guards have to come in and pin you down.

MIKE

Can do. So what should I do, beat up the other bands' fans?

MELISSA

Only if you see that asshole from the Evening Round show. Seriously, if he's there... you know what to do.

MIKE

Use spirit bomb?

MELISSA

USE SPIRIT BOMB!!!!!!!!!!!!!

commercial break!!!

scene 10- int. the motor city casino soundboard backstage, 2/10/2011, 6PM

PHIL, TED, ROY, LEE and I are backstage, helping ourselves to the hors-d'oeuvres table. TED slaps my hand as I reach for a slice of pizza.

ted

What are you doing? Those are for musicians only.

MIKE

Wait... are you serious?

TED

No, dude. You can have whatever you want. If anyone asks, you're the xylophone player.

MIKE

Awesome! Can I seriously play the xylophone for you guys? Think of how sick Taxidermy Stan would sound with a xylophone intro.

phil

Hey, if you buy one and learn to play it, we'll find a way to work you in.

MIKE (v.o.)

Yeah, that's what you said about my new amp...

roy

Hey, come check out this wall of people who've played here.

We investigate the wall. There are pictures of performers/bands like Madonna, Marilyn Manson, Eminem, etc...

TED

Guys... we're going to be playing on the same stage that EMINEM has been on.

ROY

We've finally made it to the big stage.

MIKE

You guys earned it. The voters have spoken.

roy

So... how many times did you vote for us?

MIKE

Once a day, as contest rules specified... and I voted once for Melissa... and Nicole... and a few other-

PHIL

Relax. I voted with like 50 different accounts.

MIKE

Well... I guess you didn't earn it then.

PHIL

Whatever. The voting system is a sham. I mean, there's no way to monitor who's voting, so they had to have known that was going to happen. I can guarantee you every other band here did the exact same thing.

The guys from HOUSE PHONES slink through the background.

MIKE

(muted)

Yeah, I guess that explains why they're here...

lee

When are we going on?

PHIL

We're on 4th. So... around 8 I think.

MIKE

And what time is it now?

PHIL

6:30. So you should probably go take your seat.

MIKE

Alright.

ted

But be sure to hype the shit out of our set!

MIKE

Only if you play a set worth hyping the shit out of!

We gather round and do a little group pow-wow thing.

MIKE

Rock and roll, guys.

I walk off.

scene 11- int. soundboard music hall, 2/10/2011, 7PM

So we got a massive stage with enough chairs for a couple thousand people, we got TV screens everywhere, and we got an awesome foggy ambience... but there's NOBODY THERE. I walk up to the bar.

MIKE

What's on the menu?

BARTENDER

Bud Light for $5. Mixed drinks for $8.50.

MIKE

Alright... I'll take a Bud Light then.

bartender

$5.

I suppress a grimace and pay the bill. They take it and give me a cup about the size of my finger. MEL pops in for a second.

MIKE

$5 for THIS? I might as well just stay dry tonight.

MELISSA

That's no attitude to have. Be proud of your beer!

MIKE

Nah. Not this beer. See, it's like an overpriced prostitute. It's tasteless and unrewarding, but I already paid for it so...

MELISSA

Well, why would you want to when you can get it much better for free?

She caresses my arm.

MIKE

Well that's where the analogy falls apart...

MELISSA

Not if The Evening Round was here giving you free drinks. Bet you wish they were.

MIKE

Tell me about it...

MELISSA

Hey, speaking of not being here, where is everybody? I thought this thing was supposed to be like semi-legitimate?

MIKE

Well... it's still early, people are still coming in.

MELISSA

I hope so. It'd be a real shame to have this big, beautiful stage wasted on a teeny crowd...

MIKE

Well, we can fill it with a million imaginary fans.

MELISSA

That wouldn't mean anything unless we had imaginary judges.

MIKE

We can have imaginary judges. One of them can have eighty eyes!

MELISSA

Now you're just being silly.

JASON and TRAVIS come up to me.

MELISSA

Oh goody, someone made it. Have fun! Raise some hell!

Quick kiss and she's poofed off.

jason

Hey hey!

We high five.

travis

Mike Chenoweth.

MIKE

Travis Alfonso.

We shake hands.

MIKE

Ready to rock, gentlemen?

jason

You know it! I'm gonna get a drink first though.

MIKE

I hope you brought your last paycheck. Guess how much this cost?

JASON

How much?

MIKE

$5. Or you could get a smaller mixed drink for $8.50.

jason

...Well... I guess I'm not getting a drink.

MIKE

Ah it's not that big a deal. It's not like we need it to enjoy the show.

The first band comes on. Their lead singer wanted the band to be a punk band, but everyone else wanted it to be an Indie band, and this is reflected in their musical style and stage presence.

jason

Screw it.

He makes a B-line to the bar.

scene 13- int. soundboard music hall, 2/10/2011, 8:30PM

We're all sitting in the back watching a band that can only be described as "My First Band" wrapping up their set. They finish, and receive the polite applause of about 20-30 soccer moms. They exit the stage.

MIKE

...This is a rock and roll battle of the bands???

JASON

Seriously. And where is everybody? If these are the bands that got the most votes, why are there only like 20 parents here?

MIKE

Well... who are we to judge?

TRAVIS

Whatever. We just need to be louder than everyone else... which shouldn't be too hard.

ALGERNON takes the stage.

MIKE

Alright, let's show 'em how it's done.

We go up front and yell and scream as they play PARTS OF THE MIRROR. JASON, TRAVIS, and I do a bit of joke moshing. Note: we're away from any any dangerous objects or other people. Alas, THE BIGGEST LOSER IN THE WORLD (T.B.L.I.T.W.) comes up.

t.b.l.i.t.w.

Hey, knock it off. Not tonight. Sit down.

We grimace and sit down, pissed off. Move ahead to when ALGERNON is wrapping things up with THE SEED. I look around at the crowd for any sign of life. Nope. So I tap JASON and WE'RE OFF! He jumps on my back and I run around. Again, way away from anyone, not hurting anyone, just two guys having fun. ALGERNON wraps up.

PHIL

Thank you. We are Algernon, and I hope you enjoyed as much as these two did.

MEL pops in.

MELISSA

Major tool at 6 o'clock...

Right on cue, T.B.L.I.T.W. approaches, TRAVIS, JASON, and I.

T.B.L.I.T.W.

You know, it's funny... I thought we had made an agreement. And YOU didn't quite live up to your end, did you?

MELISSA

There wasn't any agreement. You just yelled at him for trying to liven this place up.

MIKE

I know... look, I just wanted to support the band. But I'm done now.

T.B.L.I.T.W.

Well, that's fine and all, but... see, unlike you, I'm a man of my word.

MELISSA

You're a joke.

T.B.L.I.T.W.

So when I say something, I follow through with it.

MIKE

Alright, so... do you want us to leave?

T.B.L.I.T.W.

No, not exactly... I just want YOU to leave.

He walks off. I stand there trying not to blow up... but MELISSA is blowing up for me.

MELISSA

...YOU FUCKING LOSER!!! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE??? YOU KICK OUT ONE OF THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO'S TRYING TO BRING SOME LIFE IN THIS PLACE??? AND WHY'D YOU ONLY KICK HIM OUT??? HE WAS BEING CIVIL, YOU PIECE OF SHIT!!! YOU WANT TO SEE UNCIVIL BEHAVIOR, I'LL SHOW YOU-

I nonchalantly hold her back as she tries to go after him.

scene 14- ext. soundboard music hall, 2/10/2011, 9PM

T.B.L.I.T.W., some security people, JASON, TRAVIS and I are all outside that joke of a venue. MELISSA is still ranting.

MELISSA

-LAMEST ROCK SHOW I'VE EVER SEEN IN ALL MY LIFE!!! I DIDN'T KNOW THAT ROCK'S PRIMARY DEMOGRAPHIC WAS SOCCER MOMS!!! OH WAIT... IT ISN'T, YOU UNBELIEVABLE IDIOT!!!

T.B.L.I.T.W.

If you attempt to re-enter the premesis tonight, we WILL contact the police and have you arrested for trespassing.

MELISSA

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT!!! I'LL MAKE SURE WE NEVER SEE A SHOW HERE AGAIN!!!

T.B.L.I.T.W.

You know, believe it or not, we do have metal shows here too. We've had bands like Iron Maiden, Motorhead, and Winger play here. Tonight just wasn't the night for that kind of thing.

MELISSA

WINGER??? DON'T TRY TO RELATE TO HIM AFTER YOU KICKED HIM OUT!!! AND AT LEAST DON'T THROW WINGER IN THERE!!!

TRAVIS

But why are you only kicking him out?

T.B.L.I.T.W.

Alright, I'll kick you out too.

TRAVIS

WHAT??? WHY???

T.B.L.I.T.W.

Because you're a piece of shit!

jason

Whatever, I'm out of here. This place is lame.

T.B.L.I.T.W.

Fine! You're gone too. And remember, don't come back or we'll call the police.

JASON, TRAVIS and I glare, but turn and walk away. I pick up MELISSA and take her with me.

MELISSA

YOU'RE GONNA BE SORRY ABOUT THIS!!! THIS IS MIKE CHENOWETH, FUTURE MASTER TV WRITER!!! EVERYONE IN AMERICA IS GOING TO SEE JUST HOW BIG A LOSER YOU ARE-

T.B.L.I.T.W.

It's too bad... you should have saved some of that rowdiness for a good band.

I stop and put MELISSA down, who is stunned beyond words. I go back to him... and the security guards step forward, but they stop. I look T.B.L.I.T.W. right in the eye.

MIKE

It's because of people like you that rock today is dead. Congratulations. Is your mother proud of you?

MELISSA

OH!!! IN YOUR FACE! IN YOUR STUPID, UGLY, LOSER FACE!!! TRY SLEEPING WITH THAT ON YOUR MIND, ASSHOLE!!!

MEL and I strut off proudly, arm in arm.

MIKE

That felt good.

MELISSA

I bet it did. Aren't you forgetting something, though?

MIKE

Oh, of course.

I turn around and start to summon a SPIRIT BOMB!!!

MELISSA

And you see, that's what you SHOULD have done.

scene 15- int. phil and trav's apartment, 2/10/2011, 11PM

MEL and I are hanging out in their living room. JASON and TRAVIS are passed out.

MIKE

Yeah, well... if I had summoned it I would have killed the band too... so that would have defeated the purpose.

MELISSA

Alright, fine.

MIKE

Well, I was the loudest and craziest fan there like you wanted. I even got kicked out!

MELISSA

Well... when I imagined you getting kicked out, that's not quite what I had in mind.

MIKE

Yeah, me neither...

MELISSA

But... you did pass my challenge by default.

MIKE

Ah well. I'll take it.

Kiss. THE BAND comes in. MEL poofs away. TRAV and JASON come to.

MIKE

So?

PHIL

We didn't get anything. They said we were too heavy.

MIKE

What??? Who won?

PHIL

House Phones...

MIKE

Tell me you're joking... well, great. I got kicked out for nothing.

TED

I think it's awesome that you guys got kicked out. It shows who had the best fans and who really should have won.

MIKE

Yeah... but still $10,000 would have been nice...

ted

Ah, we'll make it some day. Besides, tonight, I'd rather have you guys then that $10,000.

MIKE

Aw, Ted.

We have a big ol' group hug. MEL gets in there too.

PHIL

The $10,000 would have been nice, though...

ted

Yeah...

outro sequence!!!

DON'T SEE A ROCK SHOW AT THE MOTOR CITY CASINO!!!